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BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list:

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#1524
11.24.2025

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I took Bodhi to visit Green Mountain Farms Petsitting in Fletcher. We had gone there to just check it out, but as can be seen by the picture (below), both Cynthia and Bodhi had a blast..

We had originally planned to be there for a short visit, but we wound up letting Bodhi stay while we went out for dinner. When we picked him up, he told us he wanted to return "Woof! Woof!" which, translated, means "real soon."

For more information about this amazing place, click:

[Here](#)





B. We went for dinner to the nearby Blue Sky Cafe that's also in Fletcher. The food is always good there, and the service from Wanda and everybody else there is very friendly. We loved our Patti Melts, accompanied by delicious sweet potato fries and some tasty cookies that we took home for dessert.

For more information about this eatery that's rapidly becoming one of our favorites, click: [Here](#)



C. I had the pleasure of hosting one BLAINESWORLD webcast this past week. My guests were Nancy Reeder and Donna Marie Todd, Storytellers, who discussed Tellabrationode. ... To view or listen to this episode, click:

www.blaineworld.net

and look for the one dated 11.17.2025.





D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Daphne Carson for receiving the 2025 Small Business Center Network's Service Excellence Award,
- (2) Jill Sparks for receiving the Small Business Administration's Award of Recognition.
- (3) Janice Schreiber and Richard Seagle on being named as Managing Artistic Co-Directors for SART.
- (4) John Crawley on his retirement from Asheville School.
- (5) Caroline Siegle on her new position as Plumbing Service Coordinator at Bolton Construction & Service of WNC, Inc.
- (6) Andrew R. Jones on receiving first place in Investigative Reporting in the online division of the North Carolina Press Association's annual contest. He also won third place in the A-Mark Foundation Prize for Investigative Journalism.
- (7) John Boyle for winning first place for Lighter Columns in the North Carolina Press Association's contest.

E. Announcing this week's

**** **BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD** ****

It goes to the Black Mountain Tailgate Market, hosted by the First Baptist Church of Black Mountain.

This is a weekly event held on Saturday mornings that features local food and music, plus visits from lots of congenial folks and dogs.

We went to the last market for the season, but we will be back come spring. And we especially look forward to the annual Halloween Parade for pets.

Special thanks to Jennifer Conlon, our dog trainer extraordinaire, who told us about this and also accompanied us. She is in the top left picture (below).

For more pictures from our lovely day, click:

[Here](#)





2. Cynthia's Corner

Welcoming Whatever Walks Through the Door

Sometimes the day brings exactly what we hoped for. Other times it brings a mood, a pain, a memory, or a moment we were not expecting. Instead of fighting these arrivals, there is something incredibly gentle about simply letting them come in. We can pause long enough to notice what is here. A flicker of irritation, a sudden wave of tiredness, a burst of joy for no reason at all. When we meet these visitors with compassion rather than judgment, everything softens a little. The tightness loosens. The mind becomes kinder. The heart gets room to breathe.

Allowing does not mean we have to love what shows up. It simply means we give ourselves permission to be human. We stop wrestling with our inner weather and start listening to it. Some feelings pass quickly. Others linger. All of them deserve a moment of understanding.

This small practice, noticing, allowing, and offering compassion to whatever arises, becomes a gift we give ourselves. It turns ordinary days into gentler ones and reminds us that we are worthy of kindness even in our messy moments.

Warmly,
Cynthia (Greenfield)
cgreenfield1001@aol.com

PS. As always, please feel free to email me with any reactions you may have.

3. Invites

A. The deadline for the following contest has been EXTENDED!

***** CONTEST #13 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of:

It's a Yoga Party! 2nd edition
By Nancy Gannon

If you enjoy yoga—or want your kids and grandkids to get into it—this is the book for you.

You'll especially love the illustrations in this fun story.



To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #13 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

I typically feature guests involved with theater, non-profit organizations, authors, performers or who are just downright interesting.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com, if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. Include your email address and phone number. And for more information, click: <https://www.blaineworld.net/>

C. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

You can also find me by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

D. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>

4. FYI

A. Some of you may skip over this section. Too bad, in that I think you might like it.

Each week, I usually try to run at least five articles and/or other interesting tidbits you may well have not seen.

For example, see below see work from the top nature photographer of the year, learn why flu season could be nasty, find out why taking melatonin may be bad for you, discover this year's word of the year, and even learn about the habit of putting a shoe in your hotel safe.

B. See the 2025 Nature Photographer of the Year Winning Images

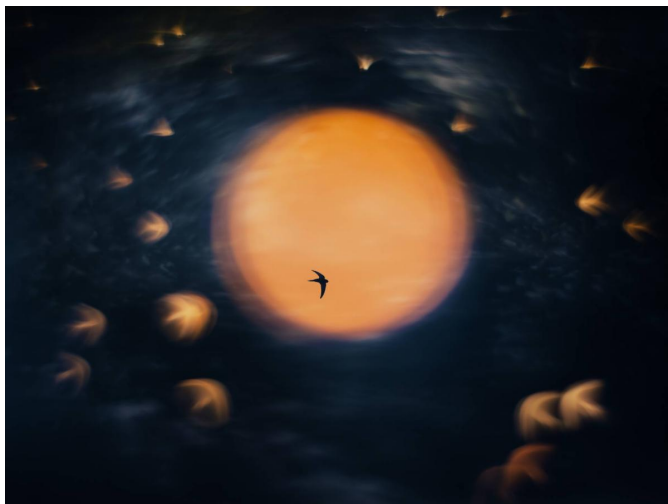
This ethereal image could be mistaken for a painting — but it's actually the overall winner of the 2025 Nature Photographer of the Year contest, titled "Sundance." Now in its 10th year, the international competition is held by Netherlands-based organization Nature Talks, which reviewed 24,781 images captured by photographers from over 96 countries to make its final selection, per PetaPixel.

Norwegian photographer Åsmund Keilen said "Sundance" was taken spontaneously from his driveway on a warm summer day in Oslo. "Small orange birch seeds had fallen overnight on the blue roof of the car, and the summer sun reflected in them, alongside swifts dancing in the sky," he said. "Freedom seemed to take form in chaos." Part of the photo's magic is how it "appears to depict leaves adrift in a cosmic sky," added committee chairman Tin Man Lee, "but on closer look, each shape reveals itself as a bird in graceful flight."

Keilen was awarded around \$3,480 at Saturday's Nature Talks Photo Festival, where the category winners were also recognized. Along with "Sundance," the featured shots include a mesmerizing photo of icy layers beneath a frozen surface, a detailed look at an underwater world, and a black-and-white silhouette of a moose in the snow.

See his image (below), then all the winning images when you click:

[Here](#)



C. Flu season could be nasty this winter

[Here](#)

D. Stop Taking Melatonin as a Sleep Aid, Say Sleep Doctors

[Here](#)

F. Word of the Year (actually two, depending on what source you check)

2. Word of the Year (actually two, depending on what source you check)

(1) [Here](#)

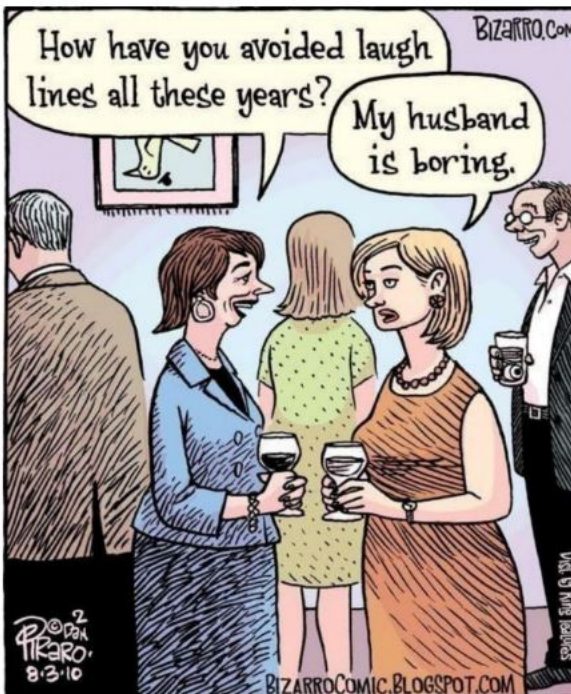
or

(2) [Here](#)

F. Why You Should Put a Shoe in Your Hotel Safe, According to a Flight Attendant
[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

Proof that boredom is the ultimate anti-wrinkle cream.(Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)



6. Reviews

A. Movies

(1) RENTAL FAMILY at Cinemark Bistro

Rental Family is a thoughtful and engaging dramedy about an American actor in Tokyo who unexpectedly gets hired to play a fake family member for clients who need emotional support. Brendan Fraser shines in the leading role as Phillip Vandarpleog, bringing warmth and vulnerability to a man searching for connection in an unfamiliar world. Director HIKARI turns an unusual premise into a touching story about identity and belonging, supported by strong performances from the ensemble cast. A charming and emotionally resonant film that stays with you. We liked it and think you will too. MPA Rating: PG-13.

Note: The above dramedy is based on a real service providing human connection. For more information, click: [Here](#)

(2) THE MARKSMAN on Netflix

The action-thriller The Marksman (2021) follows former Marine Jim Hanson, played by Liam Neeson, who after settling near the U.S.–Mexico border finds himself protecting a young boy fleeing a deadly cartel. Neeson delivers a reliably solid leading turn, bringing gravitas and empathy to one of his better recent performances. While the film follows a familiar narrative formula and won't surprise seasoned action fans, it succeeds as a clean, no-frills vigilante road-movie with a strong central bond and adequate thrills. I enjoyed it. MPA Rating: PG-13.

B. Book

THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN on Harper Audio

The audiobook of *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester, produced by Harper Audio, is excellent. Winchester narrates his own work with clarity and engagement, telling the remarkable true story of Professor James Murray, the brilliant editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, and Dr. William Minor, a gifted contributor who was also a mentally ill American Civil War veteran confined to an asylum. The blend of rich historical detail and compelling personal drama makes the narrative fascinating, and the bonus author interview at the end adds even more insight. Highly recommended.

7. TV Alert

A. *A Man on the Inside*, Season 2 (Netflix)

Ted Danson, that promising up-and-comer, is back for the second season of this comfort-food mystery series about a retired San Francisco professor turned sleuth. As a bonus, Danson's real-life partner, Mary Steenburgen, 72, costars.

We liked Season 1, so we're also looking forward to this one.

B. *Everybody Loves Raymond: 30th Anniversary Reunion* (CBS on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m, ET)

C. *A Road Trip To Remember* (National Geographic on Nov. 23 at 9 p.m. and also on Disney+ and Hulu)

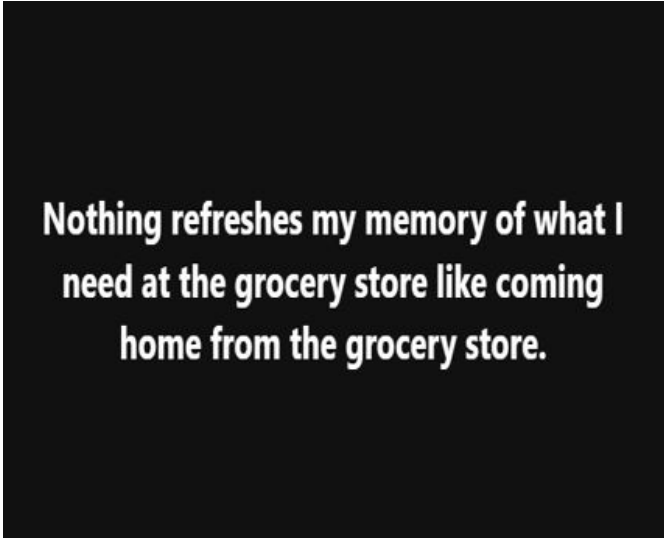
Get out your handkerchiefs for this intimate and uplifting documentary from National Geographic about Australian actor Chris Hemsworth and his father, Craig, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

D. *Kathleen Madigan: The Family Thread* (Prime Video)

In her new one-hour stand-up special, comic Kathleen Madigan tackles a wide range of subjects, from Midwest pioneers and her aging parents to the issues that come with owning four cats. She even recalls launching a fantasy football league for her preteen nieces and nephews "so they can learn to gamble properly."

8. Joke 2

Good news. I brought chips and ice cream. The essentials can wait.



**Nothing refreshes my memory of what I
need at the grocery store like coming
home from the grocery store.**

9. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see my friend Claudia Pellegrini performing it when you click:

[Here](#)

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

Last week, I reviewed Dogged Utopia's magnificent adaptation of WUTHERING HEIGHTS.

I have since found the original production it was based on, composed by my friend Bernard J. Taylor. You're in for a treat when you listen to it by clicking:

Act one:

[Here](#)

Act two:

[Here](#)

Among the reviews:

"Bernard J. Taylor's big, sweepingly romantic score sustains a feeling of dark passion entirely appropriate for an adaptation of Emily Bronte's novel concerning the ill-fated love between Cathy and Heathcliff." - Show Music Magazine, USA

"This is what stage music should be - passionate, powerful, melodic . . . If you buy only one album this year, make it this one - Mike Gibb, Masquerade Magazine

"In the mold of the classic musicals of Jerome Kern and Richard Rogers." - Jersey Evening Post

"A dark, brooding score, fiery and dramatic as the subject." - Terry Wardrope, Words and Music

C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) The Drifters: Please Stay, one of my favorites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iY2UpSz9Vs>

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (11.23.2025)

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1329637008964953>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Neil Young

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1422100429279213>

(4) Thanks, Neil, for getting me to revisit "Southern Man." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFSxw9Kmk70&list=RDMFSxw9Kmk70&start_radio=1

(5) Fashion evolution

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T88taeGuNkpd_mTipdaGPyA61-iKFVAK/view

(Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)

(6) Baby gorilla:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DPf0aAUiEQi/>

(Thanks to Donnie Roland for sharing.)

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

Pointer Pointer

What it is: This ingenious website does one thing, and it does it with surprising accuracy. Wherever you place your mouse cursor on the screen, Pointer Pointer will find a photo of someone pointing directly at it.

Why it's weird: The sheer randomness of the photos and the uncanny precision with which they point to your cursor is what makes this site so captivating. You'll find a wide array of images, from stock photos to candid snapshots, all united in their mission to pinpoint your pointer.

Why you should visit: It's a simple yet brilliant concept that will have you moving your cursor around just to see what image pops up next. It's a testament to the power of a simple, well-executed idea.

To visit it, click:

[Here](#)

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<https://www.blainesworld.net/>

10. Technology Tip

Why you really need to stop using Passwords (and make the switch to Passkeys)
By Rick Rouse

As you probably know, people have been using passwords to secure their online accounts for decades. But unfortunately there are four very serious problems with passwords:

- 1 – Strong passwords that are actually effective at protecting your accounts tend to be very difficult to remember.
- 2 – Passwords often get compromised by hackers, rendering your accounts wide-open to anyone who somehow manages to get them.
- 3 – Using the same password to protect multiple accounts renders ALL of your accounts vulnerable to hackers should that password somehow become compromised. Password managers were created in order to fix this problem, but unfortunately password managers aren't really safe either.
- 4 – Forgotten (Or compromised) passwords aren't always so easy to reset, resulting in the account owners getting permanently locked out of their own accounts (looking at you, Facebook!).

These issues have been around as long as passwords themselves, but luckily we now have something that's a lot more secure and a lot easier to use.

For the rest of this oh-so informative article, click:
[Here](#)

11. Joke 3

I got pulled over by a police officer at around 2 a.m. He asked, "Where are you headed at this hour?"

"I'm on my way to a lecture about the effects of alcohol abuse, smoking, and staying out late," I said.

The officer looked surprised. "Oh, really? Who's giving a lecture at this time of night?"

"My wife!"



12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Alice and Ellen Kessler (1936-2025), usually credited as the Kessler Twins, for your career as German singers, dancers, and actresses who were popular in Europe during the 1950s and 1960s. ... To see them perform, click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdnfjxjN0h8&list=RDEMXPePWoqZ0hulB1IMUsoGjA&start_radio=1

And for more information about their lives, click:
<https://abc7chicago.com/post/entertainment-duo-alice-ellen-kessler-twins-die-assisted-suicide-german-society-humane-dying-said/18180177/>



"We were feminists, but without thinking about it,"--Alice and Ellen Kessler

B. Thanks, Elizabeth Franz (1941-2025), for your career as an American stage and television actress. She received a Tony Award as Linda Loman in the 50th anniversary production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. For more information about her life, click:

<https://deadline.com/2025/11/elizabeth-franz-dead-death-of-a-salesman-actress-broadway-1236618767/>



"She'll fight to the nth degree for her family and her self-respect."--Elizabeth Franz (on her role as Linda Loman)

13. Thought For The Day

Let nature sing for you.

If you want to hear
the sounds of birds,

don't buy a cage.
Plant a tree.



PS. Make it a great week!

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